

**A THIRD BRITISH RECORD OF *ETIELLA ZINCKENELLA*
TREITSCHKE (1832) (LEPIDOPTERA: PYRALIDAE) AND OTHER
MIGRANTS FROM VC11.**

M. JEFFES

44 Windsor Road, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 2EE.

WINDSOR ROAD is situated some 100 metres from the River Stour and approximately 3km from the Stour and Avon estuary. A small and rather worn specimen of *Etiella zinckenella* was found on the morning of 11th August 1995 in a Robinson light trap. The first recorded British specimen was captured on 23rd October 1989 in Essex (Bretherton & Chalmers-Hunt, 1989) by A.J. Dewick whilst the second was caught on 2nd October 1990 in Warsash, Hampshire by P.M. Potts (Potts, 1992).

This came at the end of a period of migrant activity, amongst which was a single specimen of *Trachea atriplicis* (Linnaeus 1758) on 31st July 1995. Earlier in the year another new record for VC11 turned up, namely *Hypena obsitalis* (Hübner 1813) on 2nd May. During 1994 a single *Scopula rubiginata* Hufnagel (1767) occurred on 5th August and another singleton, this time of *Heliothis armigera* (Hübner 1803), on the 27th September.

A Robinson trap has been run regularly at nearby Hengistbury Head for about four years and as well as the annual regular migrants, possibly the most interesting records are of *Mythimna vitellina* (Hübner 1808) from the period September 1992 to November 1993. As well as fairly large numbers in the autumn of 1992 several were also noted in June 1993 and again many from September to November 1993. Coupled to that there have been none before or since, could this have represented an overwintering population? Another home-bred migrant could have been an unusually dark chocolate coloured *Heliothis peltigera* (Denis & Schiffermüller 1755) found on 29th September 1994.

From 1989 to 1993 I lived in Totton, near Southampton and some of the more unusual migrants that occurred there, near the Test Valley were:

<i>Idaeia degeneraria</i> (Hübner 1799)	26th August 1990.
<i>I. vulpinaria</i> (Herriich-Schaffer 1851)	14th August 1991.
<i>Drepana curvatula</i> (Borkhausen 1790)	22nd August 1994.
<i>Euplagia quadripunctaria</i> (Poda 1761)	6th September 1991.
<i>Trichoplusia ni</i> (Hübner 1803)	25th July 1992.
<i>Pericallia ricinii</i> (Fabricius)	31st July 1992.

The record of the Indian tiger, *P. ricinii* is most interesting as the probable origin is via Southampton docks, some three miles away. This species apparently is not a known pest on foodstuffs from the Indian subcontinent so on what import it came over will remain a mystery.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Mr Barry Goater for his regular help with the positive identification of many specimens, not just the ones mentioned above. I would also like to thank Mr David Goodger at The Natural History Museum for supplying extra information concerning *P. ricinii* after the Entomology Department had positively identified the specimen.

References

- Bretherton, R.F. & Chalmers-Hunt, J.M., 1989. Immigration of Lepidoptera to the British Isles in 1989. *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* **102**: 153.
 Potts, P.M., 1992. *Etiella zinckenella* (Treitschke, 1932 sic.) (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae), a second British Record. *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* **105**: 67-68.

An unusual form of *Aglias urticae* L. (Lep.: Nymphalidae) from Devon

On 15th August 1995 I noticed a very distinctive variety of *Aglias urticae* L. (Small Tortoiseshell), flying in the company of numerous typical examples around a buddleia bush at my home in Devon. The butterfly was a fresh female and featured a continuous black band linking the central costal black mark to the spot in space 1b. It appears to be the form referred to in Emmet: *Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* Vol. 7 (1) as ab. *connexa* Cabeau.— R.W. BOGUE, Kingston House, Tuckermarsh, Bere Alston, Devon PL20 7HB.

Sphinx ligustri L. f. *albescens* Tutt (Lep.: Sphingidae) in Hampshire

A specimen of this rare form in which the pink colour is replaced by white on the hindwings and abdomen only was taken on 21st June 1995 whilst running a mercury vapour trap with J. Chainey near Emery Down, Hampshire. Another specimen was taken this year on 22nd June at Brockenhurst by M. Middleton and D. Russwurm who tell me that his is the fourth example they have seen there since 1976.— R. COOK, 11 Greensome Drive, Ferndown, Dorset BH22 8BE.

Ancylois oblitella Zell. (Lep.: Pyralidae) in Kent

I was rather surprised to find a fresh specimen of *A. oblitella* in my garden trap on the morning of 2nd September 1995. I have not seen this species in the garden since it became temporarily abundant all over southern England in 1976 (*Ent. Rec.* **88**: 318). It is mildly interesting that 1995 has been compared frequently, though not always accurately, with 1976 for its pattern of prolonged hot, dry weather.

In recent years, this species has been rather scarce with small numbers being noted along the Thames estuary.— PAUL SOKOLOFF, 4 Steep Close, Green Street Green, Orpington, Kent BR6 6DS.